AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A fixing belt having a buckling strength of 40 N or higher and a tear strength of 0.2 N or higher and comprising a tubular object made of a polyimide resin and at least one functional layer superposed thereon, wherein the tubular object is molded by applying a polyimide precursor to a tubular mold, defoaming the precursor by centrifugal force, and then converting the precursor into an imide.

2. (Original) The fixing belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the functional layer is a rubbery elastic layer or a fluororesin release layer.

3. (Original) The fixing belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tubular object has a thickness of 70-200 μm and the functional layer has a thickness of 5-500 μm.

4. (Canceled)

5. (New) A process of molding a tubular object comprising applying a polyimide precursor to a tubular mold, defoaming the precursor by centrifugal force, and converting the precursor into an imide.

6. (New) A process of producing a fixing belt, comprising applying a polyimide precursor to a tubular mold, defoaming the precursor by centrifugal force, converting the precursor into an imide, and superposing a functional layer onto the tubular object.

7. (New) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the functional layer is a rubbery elastic layer or a fluororesin release layer.

8. (New) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the tubular object has a thickness of 70 - 200 μm and the functional layer has a thickness of 5 to 500 μm.

9. (New) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the fixing belt has a buckling strength of 40 N or higher and a tear strength of 0.2 N or higher.